

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SWF-01

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 EB-07 AGR-05 AEC-05 OES-03 AID-05 RSC-01

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAGR, WFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE JUDGE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE TO HAVE BEEN  
CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS. FRAMEWORK WAS DEVELOPED FOR CON-  
CERTED INTERNATIONAL ACTION ON FOOD PROBLEM AND U.S.  
OBJECTIVES ALMOST COMPLETELY ACHIEVED. DESPITE HEAVY  
RHETORIC IN SOME AREAS, CONCILIATORY SPIRIT PREVAILED ON  
SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES AND BLOC CONFRONTATION AVOIDED. THUS,  
ATMOSPHERE IS GOOD FOR MOVING AHEAD ON CONCRETE CONFERENCE  
RECOMMENDATIONS. END SUMMARY

1. PARTICIPATION - CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY OVER 130 NATIONS,  
AND SIX LIBERATION GROUPS, INCLUDING PLO, FNLA (ANGOLA),  
FRELIMO (MOZAMBIQUE). UN ORGANIZATIONS WELL REPRESENTED,  
AS WERE OTHER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODIES, SUCH AS DEVELOP-  
MENT BANKS AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. DELEGATIONS, IN-  
CLUDING THOSE FROM MANY LDCS, WERE GENERALLY HEAVILY  
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STAFFED. MEXICAN DEL, WITH 55 MEMBERS, WAS LARGEST, EX-  
CEEDING EVEN THAT OF HOST GOVERNMENT. SOME 700 REPRESEN-  
TATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OVER 900  
FROM THE PRESS ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

2. CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE ENGAGED IN LENGTHY HAGGLING OVER ITS OWN MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS WHICH NOT SETTLED UNTIL LATE IN SECOND WEEK, AFTER WHICH COMMITTEE APPEARED HAVE

NEITHER TIME NOR INCLINATION IMMERSE ITSELF IN FURTHER CONFLICT OVER DIFFICULT KHMER AND PRG ISSUES. CREDENTIALS CONSEQUENTLY SETTLED ROUTINELY.

3. ATMOSPHERE - MEETING COULD BE DIVIDED INTO TWO CATEGORIES IN TERMS OF TONE OF DISCUSSIONS AND NATURE OF OUTCOME. FIRST CATEGORY IS RHETORICAL SPHERE, INCLUDING PLENARY SESSIONS, DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON DECLARATION ON ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND SOME ASPECTS OF COMMITTEE THREE ON TRADE. MANY LDCS, PARTICULARLY MORE RADICAL MEMBERS OF G-77 UTILIZED PLENARY FORUM TO FULLEST IN DELIVERING NATIONAL SPEECHES EXCORIATING U.S. AND OTHER DEVELOPED NATIONS AS RESPONSIBLE FOR CURRENT FOOD CRISIS AND GENERALLY DEPRESSED STATE OF LDCS. THEY CALLED FOR RADICAL ADJUSTMENT IN CURRENT ECONOMIC ORDER AND, IN EFFECT, REPARATIONS FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO LDCS. SIMILAR ATTITUDES WERE PRESENT IN DECLARATION DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND, IN PART, COMMITTEE III WHERE G-77 HELD VAST MAJORITY OF PARTICIPANTS AND SHIFTED THEIR AGREED-UPON MEMBERSHIP TO PERMIT INCLUSION MOST RADICAL MEMBERS.

4. FORTUNATELY, DEMAGOGY WAS LARGELY RESTRICTED TO SPEECHIFYING AND DID NOT CARRY OVER INTO SECOND CATEGORY OF SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS. LATTER TOOK PLACE IN THREE MAIN COMMITTEES DEALING WITH 1) FOOD PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION; 2) FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD AID; AND 3) TRADE. DESPITE EFFORTS BY RADICAL MEMBERS OF 77, ESPECIALLY LATIN AMERICANS (ARGENTINA, MEXICO, CUBA, PERU) AND ALGERIANS TO PUT DISCUSSIONS INTO POLARIZED POLITICAL CONTEXT, WORK ON SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTIONS GENERALLY STUCK CLOSE TO SUBJECT MATTER. ONLY EXCEPTIONS WERE RESOLUTIONS, SPONSORED BY ALGERIA AND PERU RESPECTIVELY, CALLING FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ING FOR FOOD AID TO VICTIMS COLONIAL WARS IN AFRICA (PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES) AND FOR REDUCTION ARMAMENTS TO FREE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR FOOD PRODUCTION. ONE MAJOR REASON FOR SUCCESS IN AVOIDING SPECIAL SESSION-TYPE ATMOSPHERE WAS SERIOUS ATTITUDE OF MANY OTHER LDCS IN SEEKING POSITIVE OUTCOME. POORER FOOD-DEFICIT NATIONS WHILE NOT SEIZING LEADERSHIP WITHIN 77, DID HELP TILT BALANCE OF DELIBERATIONS FAVORABLY. ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WERE GENERALLY PASSIVE AND OFTEN TOOK POSITIONS PARALLELING THOSE OF GROUP B, ALTHOUGH THEY EMPLOYED STRONG RHETORIC IN PLENARY, DECLARATION DRAFTING GROUP AND DISARMAMENT RESOLUTION. CHINESE WERE CONFLICTING

MIXTURE OF VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF MORE EXTREME LDC POSITIONS AND EXHORTATION TO SELF-RELIANCE, BUT DID NOT OFFER STRONG SUPPORT TO CENTRAL OBJECTIVES OF CONFERENCE, ACTUALLY OPPOSING FOOD INFORMATION AND RESERVES SYSTEMS ON GROUNDS NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.

5. CONFERENCE RESULTS - CONFERENCE PASSED TOTAL OF TWENTY RESOLUTIONS AND DECLARATION ON ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. APPROVED RESOLUTIONS INCLUDED, IN MODIFIED FORM, TEN ORIGINAL RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT IN THIRD PREPCOM (REFAIR A-7901), WITH ADDITIONAL RES (EXCEPT FOLLOW-UP) ALL EMANATING FROM COMMITTEE I. THESE WERE ON SOIL UTILIZATION, WATER MANAGEMENT, WOMEN AND FOOD, POPULATION, PESTICIDES, TSETSE FLY CONTROL, SEED DEVELOPMENT, AN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND, REDUCED MILITARY EXPENDITURES TO PERMIT FUNDING INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION, AND FOOD AID TO VICTIMS COLONIAL WARS IN AFRICA. ALL RESOLUTIONS AND DECLARATION APPROVED WITHOUT VOTE. ON DISARMAMENT RES, U.S., ALONG WITH NUMBER OF OTHER GROUP B COUNTRIES, NOTED THAT HAD RES COME TO VOTE, IT WOULD HAVE ABSTAINED. SIMILAR STATEMENTS MADE BY SOME DELS ON OTHER RESOLUTIONS. CHINESE ONLY MAJOR COUNTRY TO RESERVE ON KEY ISSUES.

6. U.S. OBJECTIVES - BROAD OBJECTIVE OF U.S. IN ENTERING CONFERENCE WAS ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR CONCERTED INTERNATIONAL EFFORT ON SEVERAL FRONTS TO COMBAT FOOD PROBLEM. THIS WAS WHOLLY ACHIEVED. MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT OF CONFERENCE WAS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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SUPPORTING CREATION OF SERIES OF FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPLEMENT WIDE RANGE OF SPECIFIC, USEFUL AND AGREED-UPON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTION. HEADING LIST IS WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, VARIATION OF IDEA PROPOSED INFORMALLY BY WFC SEC-GEN MAREI AT THIRD PREPCOM. COUNCIL WOULD BE HIGH LEVEL, LIMITED MEMBERSHIP U.N. ORGAN CHARGED WITH OVERALL REVIEW OF FOLLOW-UP ACTION IN ALL FOOD POLICY AREAS. COUNCIL MEMBERS WOULD BE NOMINATED BY ECOSOC AND ELECTED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND COUNCIL WOULD REPORT TO GA THROUGH ECOSOC. IT WOULD BE HEADQUARTERED IN ROME AND SERVICED WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF FAO. WHILE ASSIGNED COORDINATING ROLE, IT WOULD HAVE NO AUTHORITY, BEYOND MORAL SUASION TO FORCE ACTION ON PART OF GOVERNMENTS OR U.N. BODIES.

7. IN ADDITION TO COUNCIL THERE WOULD BE SEVERAL, PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, BODIES WITH SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITY FOR A SINGLE ASPECT OF FOOD POLICY. (A) COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY -- TO REVIEW SUPPLY, DEMAND AND STOCK DATA AS WELL AS STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS TO

IMPLEMENT PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY. THIS IS SOMEWHAT OF A BOW IN DIRECTION FAO AND DIRECTOR GENERAL BOERMA WHO ORIGINATED RESERVE PROPOSAL WHICH WE STILL SUPPORT. (B) IN ADDITION, RESOLUTION ON FOOD SECURITY CONTAINS PARAGRAPH URGING MAJOR GRAIN IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS TO BEGIN URGENT TALKS ON RESERVE SYSTEM. THIS, IN SOMEWHAT VAGUER TERMS, IS WHAT SECRETARY PROPOSED AS RESERVES COORDINATING GROUP. GROUP B COUNTRIES INVOLVED WERE NOT WILLING TO SET UP THIS GROUP PRIOR TO OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS ON RESERVE SYSTEM. WE HAVE HAD FAVORABLE BILATERAL CONTACTS WITH MAJOR INTERESTED PARTIES ON THIS CONCEPT AND PLAN EARLY MEETING TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS. (C) CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT - THIS IS FURTHER U.S. INITIATIVE FOR GROUP COMPOSED OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DONORS AND REPS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CHARGED WITH COORDINATION AND INCREASED VOLUME AND EFFICIENCY OF FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. GROUP WILL BE CHAIRED BY IBRD AND WILL BE STAFFED JOINTLY BY IBRD, FAO AND UNDP. (D) FOOD AID COORDINATION - U.S. FAVORS ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD AID SUB-COMMITTEE UNDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSULTATIVE GROUP, TO NEGOTIATE FINANCING FOR 10 MILLION TON MINIMUM ANNUAL FOOD AID COMMITMENT PROPOSED IN FOOD AID RESOLUTION AND WILL SEEK ACTION TO SET IT UP AS SOON AS CONSULTATIVE GROUP FORMED. GROUP B COUNTRIES AGAIN WERE NOT UNREASONABLY RELUCTANT TO SET UP SUBGROUP UNTIL MAIN BODY FORMED. IN THIS CASE AND THAT OF RESERVES COORDINATING GROUP, OUR INFLUENCE ON COMPOSITION APT TO BE GREATER THIS WAY THEN IF WFC HAD ESTABLISHED. CONFERENCE RECOMMENDED RECONSTITUTING WFP INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE TO ENABLE IT SERVE AS FOOD AID POLICY AND COORDINATING BODY IN ADDITION TO CARRYING OUT ITS REGULAR ON-GOING WORK. (E) RESOURCE AVAILABILITY - U.S. PROPOSED AND CONFERENCE ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATION THAT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF IBRD AND IMF UNDERTAKE REVIEW OF ADEQUACY EXTERNAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR INVESTMENT IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT BOTH FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL INPUTS. (F) NUTRITION - CONFERENCE REQUESTED ECOSOC TO CONSIDER NEED FOR NEW INSTITUTIONS OR ADJUSTMENTS IN CURRENT UN SYSTEM TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE FOLLOW-UP ON NUTRITION RECOMMENDATIONS, AMONG WHICH WERE U.S. PROPOSALS FOR GLOBAL NUTRITION SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM TO MONITOR FOOD AND NUTRITION CONDITIONS OF DISADVANTAGED GROUPS AND FOR INTERNATIONALLY COORDINATED PROGRAM IN APPLIED NUTRITIONAL RESEARCH. (G) ACTION ON FERTILIZER, PESTICIDES AND EARLY-WARNING SYSTEM WOULD REMAIN RESPONSIBILITY OF APPROPRIATE SUB-GROUPS WITHIN FAO. (H) RESEARCH FOLLOW-UP WOULD ALSO REMAIN RESPONSIBILITY OF CGIAR.

8. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND - FINAL FOLLOW-UP ITEM  
RECOMMENDED BY WFC IS NEW FUND PROPOSED ORIGINALLY BY  
OPEC COUNTRIES, BUT LATER CO-SPONSORED BY NUMEROUS LDCS,  
THE NETHERLANDS, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. FUND WOULD  
RECEIVE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND RESOURCES WOULD BE  
DISBURSED THROUGH EXISTING INTERNATIONAL OR REGIONAL

LENDING INSTITUTIONS TO AVOID CREATION FURTHER BUREAU-  
CRATIC STRUCTURE. SINCE SEVERAL MONEY-LESS FUNDS ALREADY  
IN EXISTENCE, RESOLUTION SPECIFIES THAT DEVELOPMENT FUND  
WOULD NOT COME INTO BEING UNTIL SECRETARY GENERAL OF UN  
IN CONSULTATION WITH PLEDGING COUNTRIES, DETERMINES THAT  
FUND HOLDS PROMISE OF GENERATING SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL  
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RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND THAT OPERATIONS  
HAVE REASONABLE PROSPECT CONTINUITY. U.S. BELIEVES ONLY  
IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS BY OIL EXPORTING NATIONS CAN  
BRING FUND INTO EXISTENCE. WE HAVE NO PRESENT INTENTION  
OF CONTRIBUTING TO FUND AND WILL CONTINUE DIRECTING OUR  
SUBSTANTIAL MULTILATERAL RESOURCES THROUGH EXISTING  
INSTITUTIONS.

9. WHETHER CONFERENCE ULTIMATELY PRODUCES BENEFICIAL  
RESULTS WILL DEPEND ON DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH  
FOLLOW-UP IS PURSUED. FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL BOERMA HAS  
ALREADY SHOWN BY HIS ACTIONS IN CURRENT FAO COUNCIL MEET-  
ING THAT HE INTENDS MOVE AHEAD WITH ALACRITY IN AREAS  
UNDER FAO RESPONSIBILITY. OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGS, SUCH  
AS IBRD, APPEAR WILLING BEGIN RAPID IMPLEMENTATION CON-  
FERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS. U.S. WILL LEND FULL SUPPORT TO  
FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS WE BELIEVE  
OF CENTRAL IMPORTANCE, I.E., CONSULTATIVE GROUPS AND  
ESTABLISHMENT OF GRAIN RESERVES GROUP. ATTITUDE OF OTHER  
MAJOR DEVELOPED NATIONS IS CRITICAL. SOME, PARTICULARLY  
AMONG EC COUNTRIES AND USSR, WERE RELUCTANT PARTICIPANTS  
AND WILL HAVE TO BE PRODDED TO MOVE FROM DISCUSSION TO  
IMPLEMENTATION OF CONFERENCE PROPOSALS.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS OF WFC NOW GO TO ECOSOC FOR REVIEW  
AND THEN TO GA FOR DECISION. OUR INTERESTS THEREIN ARE  
SUBJECT SEPTEL. COPY OF FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT IN-  
CLUDING RESOLUTIONS WILL FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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